part of some State Government to release funds to the implementing agencies, law and order problems in some States and limitations of technical and professional expertise.

Vision Document 2020

1114. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vision document 2020 has been finalized by his Ministry;

(b) if so, salient features and strategy finalized for translating the vision into action and

(c) decision taken by Government towards implementation of this plan from Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The North Eastern Region Vision 2020 document has been finalized. The document was adopted by the North-Eastern Council in its 56th meeting held at Agartala, on 12-13 May 2008. The document was also formally released by the Honourable Prime Minister on 2nd July 2008. It was laid on the table of the Lok Sabha on 22 October 2008.

(b) The Vision document sets up the goals, identifies the challenges and suggests regional and sectoral implementation strategies for promoting the socio-economic prosperity of the region, with a view to growth rates in the North-East Region catching up with the overall national growth rates.

The document suggests a sex-fold strategy for the comprehensive developments of the region:

- Empowering people by maximising self-governance and participatory development through grass-root planning to promote inclusive development.
- Creation of development opportunities for the rural areas through enhancing productivity in agriculture and allied activities such as animal husbandry, horticulture, floriculture, fisheries and generation of livelihood options through rural non-farm employment.
- To develop sectors in the region which have a comparative advantage such as agro processing, hydel power generation.
- Enhancing the skills and competencies of the people and building the capacities for institutions within the Government and outside.
- Creating a hospitable investment climate to encourage investment by private sector particularly for infrastructure.
- Harnessing the resources of the Government and the private sector to realise the objectives of the Vision.

Overall, the Vision Document stresses on the development of agriculture and allied sectors, strengthening of physical infrastructure and participatory development and inclusive governance.

(c) The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region has constituted 16 Thematic Working Groups comprising of line Ministries, State Governments of the region and sectoral experts. These Thematic Working Groups have prepared plans of action based on the Vision Document to achieve its objectives. The Plans of action were presented to the public representatives, Governments, Press and civil society groups of the North-East in the office of North-East Council in Shillong, 3-4 December 2008.

Action against polluting industries

1115. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to levy tax on polluting industries in view of encouraging to scale down of carbon emission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also constitute any statutory body to measure and analyze the carbon footprint of polluting industries and take strong action against industrial units which cause huge carbonization ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal by the Government to levy tax on polluting industries in view of encouraging to scale down of carbon emission.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to constitute a statutory body to measure and analyze the carbon footprint of polluting industries. India has been following a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the Government include *inter-alia* setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, power sector reforms, use of cleaner and lesser carbon-intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging Mass Rapid transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors.

E-waste management

1116. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: